UNITED NATIONS

UNEP

SC

UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/INF/1

Distr.: General
29 May 2018

Original: English

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
Fourteenth meeting
Rome, 17–21 September 2018
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters: organization of work

Scenario note for the fourteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

Note by the Secretariat

A scenario note developed by the Chair of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, Ms. Estefania Moreira (Brazil), to assist participants in preparing for the fourteenth meeting of the Committee is set out in the annex to the present note.

* UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/1.

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Annex

Scenario note for the fourteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

1. The present scenario note is intended to assist participants in preparing for the fourteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

2. The documents for the meeting have been posted on the website of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (www.pops.int/poprc14) and made available to the Committee.

A. Objectives and possible outcomes of the meeting

3. The first objective of the meeting is to ensure that the Committee undertakes the work assigned to it under the Convention. To that end, the Committee shall:

(a) For the draft risk profile on perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (CAS No: 355-46-4, PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds developed by the intersessional working group established by the Committee:

(i) Adopt, with any amendments, the risk profile;

(ii) Decide, in accordance with paragraph 7 of Article 8 of the Convention and on the basis of the risk profile, whether the chemicals are likely, as a result of their long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted and that the proposal should proceed;

(b) For pentadecafluorooctanoic acid (CAS No: 335-67-1, PFOA, perfluorooctanoic acid), its salts and PFOA-related compounds:

(i) Review the draft assessment of the information on PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, and consider including it in an addendum to the risk management evaluation on those chemicals that was adopted by the Committee at its thirteenth meeting;

(ii) Consider strengthening its recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on listing PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds.

4. Participants should note that any new information on chemicals under review that they may wish to bring to the attention of the Committee may only be considered during the meeting if the full documents providing such information, including their references, are provided to all Committee members.

5. The second objective of the meeting is to complete the tasks assigned to the Committee by the Conference of the Parties and to consider issues related to the effective operation of the Committee. To meet that objective, the Committee shall:

(a) Meet in closed session before the beginning of the meeting to discuss any issues related to conflicts of interest on the part of Committee members;

(b) For PFOS, its salts and PFOSF:

(i) Complete its report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, including recommendations;

(ii) Review and provide comments on the draft report prepared by the Secretariat on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF;

(iii) Address how to proceed with sulfluramid, considering that the chemical may meet the definition of a PFOA-related substance and, at the same time, is included in the risk profile on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, while the relevant CAS number is not included in Annex B to the Convention;

(c) Discuss activities for the effective participation of Parties in the work of the Committee.

B. Meeting agenda

6. The provisional agenda for the meeting (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/1) lists the matters before the Committee. The Committee members are invited to notify the Secretariat before the meeting of any other matters that should be included. The annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/1/Add.1) identify the issues for discussion under each agenda item and the documents that correspond to that item.

C. Organization of work

7. The meeting will take place from Monday to Friday, 17–21 September 2018. Prior to the meeting, the Committee members will meet in closed session on Monday, 17 September, from 9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. to review issues pertaining to conflicts of interest. A tentative schedule for the meeting, including working hours, is provided in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/INF/2. Contact groups and drafting groups will be established as needed throughout the week.

8. The meeting will begin at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 17 September 2018, with opening formalities in plenary (item 1 of the provisional agenda). The Committee will then adopt the agenda for the meeting (item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda), amended as appropriate, and agree on the organization of work (item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda).

9. The Committee will then consider the rotation of the membership of the Committee (item 3 of the provisional agenda). A representative of the Secretariat will provide information on the newly appointed members and the forthcoming rotation of the membership in May 2020.

10. The Committee will then take up the technical work (item 4 of the provisional agenda) as follows:

(a) The Committee will consider the draft risk profile on PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds before it. Under this item:

(i) The chair of the intersessional working group that developed the draft risk profile will present it to the Committee;

(ii) The Committee will be given the opportunity to ask questions about the draft;

(iii) The Committee will discuss the draft risk profile and whether the chemicals are likely, as a result of their long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted;

(iv) The Committee will in all probability establish a contact group to develop a draft decision that includes the elements listed in paragraph 3 (a) (ii) above for possible adoption by the Committee during the meeting;

(b) The Committee will then consider its recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds. Under this item:

(i) The Chair of the intersessional working group that developed the draft assessment of information on PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds will present it to the Committee;

(ii) The Committee will be given the opportunity to ask questions about the draft;

(iii) The Committee will in all probability establish a contact group to review the draft assessment and consider strengthening its recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on listing PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds;

(c) The Committee will then consider the work related to the process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention (item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda).

11. After that, the Committee will review a report on activities for effective participation in the work of the Committee (item 5 of the provisional agenda).

12. The Committee will then consider a workplan for the intersessional period between its fourteenth and fifteenth meetings (item 6 of the provisional agenda). Under this item, the workplan for the preparation of draft risk profiles and draft risk management evaluations will be adopted.

13. The Committee will then agree on the venue and date of its fifteenth meeting (item 7 of the provisional agenda) and discuss any other matters (item 8 of the provisional agenda), including the possible review of outlines of risk profiles and risk management evaluations, and updates from the Secretariat to the work on "From Science to Action".

14. The report of the meeting is expected to be adopted during the afternoon of Friday, 21 September 2018 (item 9 of the provisional agenda). The Committee will approve the report of the meeting as at the end of the plenary session of Thursday, 20 September 2018, with any amendments that it may consider necessary. Consistent with past practice, the Committee may agree that the section of the report pertaining to the plenary sessions held on Friday, 21 September 2018, will be prepared by the Vice-Chair, serving as rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and incorporated into the final meeting report under the authority of the Chair.

15. Upon the conclusion of the matters before the Committee, the Chair will close the meeting (item 10 of the provisional agenda).